

## IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

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Claims 1-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (new): An image pickup apparatus comprising:

a sensor portion including a plurality of pixels;

an optical black portion including a plurality of optical black pixels;

a scanning circuit effecting scanning for reading out signals of said sensor portion and said optical black portion; and

a decoder for dividing said scanning circuit into a plurality of blocks and outputting a pulse to a desired one of the plurality of blocks causing scanning to start at the desired block,

wherein said scanning circuit and said decoder are arranged such that a signal is transmitted from said scanning circuit to said decoder causing said decoder to start operation thereof, after said scanning circuit completes the scanning for reading out the signal of said optical black portion.

Claim 11 (new): An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein upon receiving a reset pulse, said scanning circuit stops scanning.

Claim 12 (new): An apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:

a lens for focusing light onto said sensor portion;

an A/D converter for converting the signals from said sensor portion into digital signals; and

a digital signal processor for processing a signal from said A/D converter.

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Claim 13 (new): An apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a lens for focusing light onto said sensor portion;

an A/D converter for converting the signals from said sensor portion into digital signals; and

a digital signal processor for processing a signal from said A/D converter.